Fraudulent Levant Perfins ?

Bob Schwerdt (#505-L)

In the recently published, excellent catalog: *Perfins of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey, Crete, and Foreign Post Offices in the Levant* by Dick Scheper, I noticed the listing for two items - - the CL perfin (CL 19a) in two British large 2/6 shillings Victorias overprinted 12 PIASTRES. Scheper illustrates them with London postmarks. Why would Levant stamps have London postmarks?

I have some fraudulently (?) overprinted items and have knowledge of others all found on British stamps. Eight of these items are shown below plus the Scheper catalog **CL**. (I am aware of an additional one, pattern **C.B/B**, but I do not have a photocopy or picture of it to show you.)

In the illustrations below, front and rear illustrations are those of my copies. Front illustrations only are from photocopies. Sorry, I cannot supply British catalog numbers.

To my knowledge, the fraudulent (?) overprints have appeared only on British stamps with perfins uncharacteristic of those found in other Levant issues. You will note major variations in the overprints shown here.

To organize my album page for these misfits, I would like to know of other examples. If sufficient additional copies are reported, a new listing will be published in the *Bulletin*. It seems there are as many fraudulent items, or more, as there are legitimate ones from British Levant!

Please send any information and photocopies of examples you might have to: Bob Schwerdt, 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, USA. Thanks for your help.

[Editor's note: The contrast in the front illustrations below has been purposely adjusted to highlight the overprints.]

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Pattern: A/B&Co
(London Cancel)

Pattern: BACL

Pattern: BC

Pattern: CL
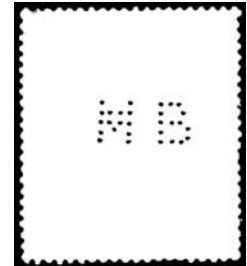(From Scheper's Catalog - CL 19a)
(London Cancel)

Pattern: DS
(Front)

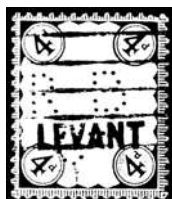**Pattern: DS**
(Back)

Pattern: L&P

Pattern: MB
(Front)
(Lombardy, Italy (?) Cancel)

Pattern: MB
(Back)

Pattern: MLS/Co

Pattern: RB/C
(Front)

Pattern: RB/C
(Back)